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CALENDAR OF CONFERENCES AND MEETINGS: IMPROVED UTILIZATION OF CONFERENCE-SERVICING RESOURCES: MEETINGS STATISTICS OF UNITED NATIONS ORGANS

Report of the Secretary-General

INTRODUCTION

1. The present report, like those which preceded it (A/AC.172/88 and Add.1-7), contains statistics showing the planned and actual utilization of conference resources allocated to a limited core sample of bodies that have been meeting for several years in New York, Geneva and Vienna. It is submitted pursuant to General Assembly resolution 44/196 A of 21 December 1989, by paragraph 8 of which the Assembly requested the Committee to remain seized of the matter on the basis of further reports from the Secretary-General.

2. The statistical information requested is presented in annexes I and II to the present document; annex III contains an analysis of the statistics in tabular and graphic form for purposes of comparing the performance of the sample of bodies as a whole over the years.

3. In paragraph 4 of resolution 44/196 A, the Assembly requested the Committee on Conferences to review the methodology for determining conference-servicing utilization rates in order to provide, if possible, a more accurate assessment of the overall use of conference resources with a view to enabling United Nations bodies to make the optimum use of conference services and to facilitate, where necessary, continued rationalization of their meeting requirements.

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* A/AC.172/132/Add.1.

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4. At its organizational meeting for 1990, the Committee agreed that the document on meetings statistics of United Nations organs would include an expanded section on methodology which would then form the basis of the review pursuant to resolution 44/196 A.

METHODOLOGY

5. At its 295th and 296th meetings, on 21 August 1989, the Committee considered the meetings statistics of United Nations organs for 1988. At the conclusion of that discussion,

> "The Committee agreed on a refined methodology to be put into effect which would include information on the holding of informal meetings, together with information on time lost owing to late starting or early ending of meetings. Committees would be advised that, to the extent possible, interpretation should also be requested for informal meetings. It was further decided that chairmen should be invited to hold informal meetings within the context of regularly scheduled meetings, by calling the formal meeting to order, and immediately suspending the formal meeting to allow for informal consultations with full conference servicing. If informal meetings were, in fact, held outside the scheduled meeting time, i.e., before the start, or after the adjournment of a meeting, the Secretariat should be informed so that that fact could be duly reflected in the statistics." 1/

6. The changes in the methodology will be applied to the compilation of statistical information to be presented to the Committee in 1991 for bodies that have met during 1990. The data in the current document do not reflect the new methodology.

7. Annex I to the present report contains a listing of bodies which met in 1989 in New York, Geneva and Vienna. The tables provide the number of meetings planned by each body (column A), the number of meetings actually held (column B), the number of meetings reassigned to other bodies in the event of a cancellation (column C), the net number of cancellations (column D) and the number of hours and minutes lost through the late starting and early ending of meetings (column E). Column F indicates the total time not used. This is arrived at by converting the amount of time lost in late starting and early ending into the equivalent of meetings by dividing it by three, since three hours is the standard meeting time. The result is then added to the net number of meetings cancelled to show the total time lost. Column G expresses the amount of time lost as a percentage of the total number of meetings planned. The utilization factor is then calculated by subtracting the figure in column G from 100 in order to indicate the percentage of available conference services actually utilized. Finally, the column headed "Change" indicates the improvement (+) or otherwise (-) in a body's performance in percentage points compared to its last comparable session.

8. Annex II lists all the bodies under review in the present series of documents, showing their utilization factors for each session held since 1982. An analysis of the statistics appears in annex III, which also presents the figures in both

tabular and graphic form for comparison purposes so that the performance of the sample of bodies as a whole over the years can be monitored.

9. The analysis in annex III is based on the assumption that the bodies in the sample, because of their size, importance, geographical spread and longevity, can be viewed as an index of the performance of United Nations organs as a whole. Many subsidiary organs are fairly short-lived, lasting only two or three years, and the efficiency with which they use the conference services placed at their disposal can depend on individual factors that do not hold good for United Nations bodies as a whole.

10. Two methods are employed in annex III to analyse the figures in annexes I and II. The first is to calculate an "overall" utilization factor for the index by treating all the bodies in the sample as a single organ and deriving the utilization factor from the total number of meetings planned, held and cancelled and total time lost in late starting and early ending. The second method, used as a cross-check, is to produce an "average" utilization factor by totalling up the utilization factors of each body under review at each session held during a given year, and to divide that total by the number of sessions held.

11. The overall utilization factor for 1989, produced by the first method, is 72 per cent, as shown by the following table:

Duty station	A a/	B	C	D	E	F	G	UF
New York	740	656	31	53	428	196	26	74
Geneva	520	447	-	73	296	172	33	67
Vienna	165	155	-	10	45	25	15	85
Overall	1 425	1 258	31	136	769	393	28	72

a/ Explanation of column headings (applies also to annex I column headings):

A Number of meetings planned by a given organ in a scheduled session, including any additional meetings.

B Number of meetings actually held, including "informal" meetings with interpretation services.

C Number of related and unrelated reassignments, i.e., cases where conference services originally allocated to the organ in question were reallocated to working groups, etc. assisting it in its work, or where services freed by cancellations of scheduled meetings of the organ concerned were reassigned to another group wishing to meet.

D Number of scheduled meetings cancelled (A - (B + C)).

E Total hours and minutes lost in the late starting and early ending of meetings (totals are rounded to the nearest hour).

F Grand total of meetings not used. This figure is arrived at in the following way: the total number of hours lost as shown in column E is converted into the equivalent of meetings lost by dividing by three, since the standard meeting time is three hours. The result is then added to the number of meetings cancelled as shown in column D to form the grand total of meetings lost during the session.

G Total meetings lost expressed as a percentage of meetings planned (F as a percentage of A).

UF Utilization factor: percentage of available conference resources actually used by the organ in question ((100-G)%).

12. The average utilization factor of the index for 1989, produced in accordance with the second method, is 74 per cent. As indicated in paragraph 10 above, this is calculated by dividing the total of the utilization factors of each body at each of its 1989 sessions (3,238) by the total number of sessions (44). Since, in 1988, the overall and the average utilization factors were calculated at 76 and 74 per cent respectively, the 1989 figures appear to indicate a slippage or

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slackening of performance of the bodies concerned. A more detailed presentation of the 1989 meeting statistics and their analysis can be found in the annexes.

13. In order to assist the Committee in its review of the methodology employed, as requested by the Assembly in paragraph 4 of resolution 44/196 A, the following information is brought to the attention of the Committee.

14. There are a number of factors that can affect the numerical outcome of the overall and average utilization factors on conference servicing that are to some extent external to the body concerned. These are: (a) timing; (b) venue; and (c) duration of a session.

15. In addition, certain aspects of a given body's utilization pattern are beneficial to the Secretariat for planning purposes, while others are not. The current methodology does not take account of the external factors affecting utilization statistics, nor is it weighted in such a way as to encourage Committees to provide advance notice of cancellations that would free services for reassignment and permit more accurate planning for recruitment purposes.

16. The duration of a given body's session can affect its utilization statistics, as a straight result of mathematics. For example, if 1 meeting out of 10 is cancelled, the highest possible utilization for that body is 90 per cent; if 1 meeting out of 2 is cancelled, the highest possible utilization is 50 per cent. In both cases the Committee in question would have cancelled only one meeting.

17. In order to consider the effect of timing and venue on utilization statistics, it is necessary to return to paragraph 11 above, wherein related reassignments are defined as cases where conference services originally allocated to the organ in question were reallocated to working groups, etc. assisting in its work, and unrelated reassignments are those where services freed by cancellations of scheduled meetings of the organ concerned were reassigned to another group wishing to meet.

18. In practical terms, the likelihood of reassigning cancelled services increases at those times when the meetings programme is heavy or if certain of the other bodies meeting at that time request additional meetings. Similarly, the possibility for reassignments of cancellations is more likely in New York where there is a relatively large number of bodies that meet on an "as required" or "as available" basis as compared to other duty stations where such bodies are significantly less numerous.

19. To clarify the effect that this can have on utilization factors, consider body X, with an entitlement to a 1 week, 10 meeting session. If body X cancels 5 of its scheduled meetings, it would have held 5 out of 10, or 50 per cent of its meetings. If, at that time and location a total of five meetings had been requested, either for regional group meetings, night or extended meetings of other intergovernmental/expert bodies or informal consultations among interested delegations and if sufficient notice had been given to the Secretariat on the upcoming cancellations, the services for all five cancelled meetings would have been reassigned.

20. As outlined in paragraphs 16 to 19 above, timing and venue have an effect on the utilization factors largely as a result of increased or decreased likelihood of unrelated reassignments. Although the nature of the effect has been defined, it remains difficult to quantify. Further, it is evident that full three-hour blocks of meeting time, if released, could benefit the Secretariat's planning, which would reduce the likelihood of resources remaining unused. For these reasons it would seem that statistical data on utilization of conference resources should include clear information on the number of meetings actually held as compared to the number planned.

21. A related benefit would be a fuller picture on the utilization pattern of individual bodies. As an example, an intergovermental/expert body, body "Y", entitled to a 1 week, 10 meeting session, has requested and received 5 additional meetings. As per the current methodology, the 5 additional meetings would be included into the totals of meetings planned (15) and held (15). According to the proposed change in methodology, the number of meetings planned would remain as 10, while the number actually held would be 15. The utilization factor would be 150 per cent, which more accurately reflects the meetings programme of body Y.

22. The Committee may, therefore, wish to consider the utilization factor of a given body in two separate calculations: (a) the number of meetings held as a percentage of those planned; and (b) all of the factors currently considered.

Notes

1/ *Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-fourth Session, Supplement No. 32* (A/44/32 and Corr.1 and 2), para. 45.

Annex I

BODIES MEETING IN NEW YORK, GENEVA AND VIENNA IN 1989

A. New York

Name of subsidiary body and dates of session	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	UF	Change a/
1. International Civil Service Commission 16 and 17 January special session	6	6	-	-	5.25	2	33	67	-
2. Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations 23-27 January	20	19	-	1	10.35	4	20	80	-
3. Ad Hoc Committee on the Drafting of an International Convention on the Recruitment, Use, Financing and Training of Mercenaries 30 January-17 February	30	23	1	6	27.25	15	50	50	-2
4. Statistical Commission twenty-fifth session 6-15 February	16	15	-	1	1.45	1	6	94	-
5. United Nations Development Programme, Governing Council, organizational and special sessions 21-24 February	8	8	-	-	3.35	1	12	88	-12
6. Population Commission, twenty-fifth session 21 February-2 March	16	16	-	-	5.50	2	12	88	+19
7. Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, Scientific and Technical Sub-Committee 21 February-3 March	18	17	-	1	10.20	4	22	78	+11
8. Committee on Information, organizational session 6 and 7 March	4	1	-	3	1.20	3	75	25	-
Subtotal	118	105	1	12	63	-	-	-	+30 -14

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Name of subsidiary body and dates of session	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	UF	Change a/
9. Intergovernmental Working Group of Experts on International Standards of Accounting and Reporting 7-17 March	19	17	-	2	6.50	4	21	79	-
10. Ninth Meeting of Experts on the United Nations Programme in Public Administration and Finance 14-23 March	16	14	-	2	3.25	3	19	81	-
11. Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, Legal Sub-Committee 20 March-7 April	27	27	-	-	27.55	9	33	67	+8
12. Human Rights Committee 20 March-7 April	28	27	-	1	13.55	5	18	82	-
13. Committee on Natural Resources 27 March-5 April	16	15	-	1	16.55	6	38	62	-
14. Special Committee on the Charter of the United Nations and on the Strengthening of the Role of the Organization 27 March-14 April	30	24	1	5	23.10	13	43	57	-24
15. United Nations Institute for Training and Research, Board of Trustees 3-7 April	10	9	1	-	5.50	2	20	80	+10
16. Commission on Transnational Corporations 5-14 April	16	13	3	-	5.50	2	12	88	+1
17. Committee for Programme and Co-ordination, organizational session 10 April	2	1	-	1	.40	1	50	50	-50
Subtotal	164	147	5	12	104	-	-	-	+19 -74
Cumulative total	282	252	6	24	167	-	-	-	+49 -115

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Name of subsidiary body and dates of session	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	UF	Change a/
18. Ad Hoc Committee on the Indian Ocean									
10-14 April	10	9	-	1	12.10	5	50	50	+4
5-19 July	22	17	-	5	26	14	64	36	-17
19. Committee on Information									
13-26 April	24	10	7	7	12.20	11	46	54	+11
20. UNICEF Executive Board, Committee on Administration and Finance and Programme Committee									
17-28 April	28	28	-	-	12.20	4	14	86	+2
21. Disarmament Commission									
8-31 May	60	59	-	1	71.15	25	42	58	+13
22. Committee for Development Planning									
9-12 May	8	6	1	1	3.30	2	25	75	-
23. Working Group on the Drafting of an International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Their Families									
30 May-9 June	18	14	2	2	6.45	4	22	78	-
24. Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space									
5-16 June	19	15	2	2	13.20	6	32	68	+10
25. United Nations Development Programme - Governing Council, thirty-sixth session									
5-30 June	98	90	6	2	26.55	11	11	89	+5
26. Advisory Board on Disarmament Matters									
6-12 July	7	5	-	2	2.10	3	43	57	b/
27. Committee for Programme and Co-ordination									
8 May-2 June	50	50	-	-	24.30	8	16	84	-
Subtotal	344	303	18	23	209	-	-	-	+45 -17
Cumulative total	626	555	24	47	376	-	-	-	+104 -136

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Name of subsidiary body and dates of session	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	UF	Change a/
28. Committee on Contributions 5-18 June	23	22	1	-	16	5	22	78	+7
29. United Nations Joint Staff Pension Board 12-21 July	16	16	-	-	4.05	1	6	94	+4
30. International Civil Service Commission 31 July-25 August	40	40	-	-	13.15	4	10	90	+13
31. Intergovernmental Committee on Science and Technology for Development, tenth session 21 August-1 September	20	13	4	3	14.35	8	40	60	-21
32. High-level Committee on the Review of Technical Co-operation among Developing Countries, sixth session 18-22 September	15	10	2	3	5.2	5	33	67	-13
Subtotal	114	101	7	6	52	-	-	-	+24 -34
Grand total, New York	740	656	31	53	428	-	-	-	+128 -170

B. Geneva

Name of subsidiary body and dates of session	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	UF	Change a/
1. Commission on Human Rights, forty-fifth session 30 January-10 March	84	83	-	1	26.35	9	11	89	-
2. Special Committee to Investigate Israeli Practices Affecting the Human Rights of the Population of the Occupied Territories c/									
3-6 January	8	4	-	4	6.2	6	75	25	+5
22-23 May	4	3	-	1	5.25	3	75	25	-
21-25 August	10	5	-	5	6.4	7	70	30	-20
3. Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights 6-24 February	30	26	-	4	9.5	7	23	77	-
4. United Nations Conference on Trade and Development - Trade and Development Board: thirty-fifth session, second part, 6-17 and 22 March, and resumed second part (16 May)	85	61	-	24	88.40	53	62	38	+1
thirty-sixth session, first part 2-13 and 18 October	81	61	-	20	89.15	50	62	38	-6
5. International Law Commission, forty-first session 2 May-21 July	93	92	-	1	2	3	3	97	+7
6. Human Rights Committee, thirty-seventh session 10-28 July	30	28	-	2	12.05	6	20	80	-
23 October-10 November	30	29	-	1	15.35	6	20	80	-3
7. Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, thirty-seventh session 7 August-1 September	40	32	-	8	23	16	40	60	-10
8. United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees - Executive Committee, fortieth session 2-13 October	25	23	-	2	10.15	5	20	80	-
Grand total, Geneva	520	447	-	73	296	172	33	67	+13 -39

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C. Vienna

Name of subsidiary body and dates of session	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	UF	Change a/
1. Commission on Narcotic Drugs, thirty-third session 6-17 February	20	20	-	-	11.30	4	20	80	-15
2. Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women, eighth session 20 February-3 March	20	20	-	-	.50	-	-	100	+17
3. Commission for Social Development, thirty-first session 13-22 March	16	14	-	2	2.45	3	19	81	+31
4. Commission on the Status of Women, thirty-third session 29 March-7 April	16	16	-	-	-	-	-	100	+12
5. United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East Provident Fund Advisory Committee 27 and 28 April	4	4	-	-	-	-	-	100	-
6. United Nations Scientific Committee on the Effects of Atomic Radiation, thirty-eighth session 8-12 May	20	12	-	8	8.30	11	55	45	-55
7. Advisory Commission of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East 31 August	2	2	-	-	-	-	-	100	-
8. International Narcotics Control Board, forty-sixth session 16-26 May	18	18	-	-	3.45	1	6	94	+5
4-20 October	20	20	-	-	3.20	1	5	95	+2
9. United Nations Commission on International Trade Law, twenty-second session 16 May-2 June	25	25	-	-	14.05	5	20	80	+5
Grand total, Vienna	165	155	-	10	45	25	15	85	-70 +72

a/ Increase (+) or decrease (-) in utilization factor percentage points compared with comparable session of previous year. - indicates either no change or no comparable prior session.

b/ The Advisory Board met in a single consolidated session for the first time in 1989.

c/ By resolution 44/48 A, the Special Committee was renamed Special Committee to Investigate Israeli Practices Affecting the Human Rights of the Palestinian People and Other Arabs of the Occupied Territories.

Annex II

UTILIZATION FACTOR OF UNITED NATIONS ORGANS MEETING AT NEW YORK, GENEVA AND VIENNA, 1982-1989

	Name of body	1982	1983	1984	1985	1986	1987	1988	1989
1.	Ad Hoc Committee on the World Disarmament Conference	20	10	10	30	60	-	100	-
		-	25	25	40	30	-	50	-
2.	Ad Hoc Committee on the Drafting of an International Convention on the Recruitment, Use Financing and Training of Mercenaries	53	61	60	70	-	57	52	50
3.	United Nations Development Programme Governing Council: organizational sessions	25	80	100	88	89	100	100	88
	substantive sessions	-	87	69	68	79	93	84	89
4.	Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (COPOUS) (twenty-fifth-thirty-second sessions)	67	55	44	79	69	77	58	68
5.	COPOUS Scientific and Technical Sub-Committee (nineteenth-twenty-sixth sessions)	60	55	44	67	61	78	67	78
6.	COPOUS Legal Sub-Committee (twenty-first-twenty-eighth sessions)	69	61	63	61	42	57	59	67
7.	Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (first-eighth sessions)	70	85	75	80	85	85	83	100
	Subtotal								
	Combined utilization factor	364	519	490	583	515	547	653	540
	Number of sessions	7	9	9	9	8	7	9	7

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	Name of body	1982	1983	1984	1985	1986	1987	1988	1989
8.	Special Committee on the Charter of the United Nations and on the Strengthening of the Role of the Organization	53	70	74	60	63	79	81	57
9.	Human Rights Committee	-	79	80	75	75	83	82	82
	(fourteenth-	69	70	70	60	77	87	80	80
	thirty-fifth sessions)	59	62	70	60	-	80	83	80
10.	Ad Hoc Committee on the Indian Ocean	45	30	40	35	39	35	46	50
		67	45	40	50	43	39	55	36
		-	55	50	56	-	-	-	-
11.	United Nations Commission on International Trade Law (fifteenth- twenty-second sessions)	75	69	75	87	82	85	75	80
12.	United Nations Institute for Training and Research, Board of Trustees	-	50	80	100	80	80	70	80
13.	Committee for Development Planning (seventeenth- twenty-fourth sessions)	69	69	-	63	50	75	75	75
14.	UNICEF Executive Board, Committee on Administration and Finance and Programme Committee	70	75	100	86	86	89	84	86
	Subtotal								
	Combined utilization factor	507	674	679	732	595	732	731	706
	Number of sessions	8	11	10	11	9	10	10	10
	Cumulative total								
	Combined utilization factor	871	1 193	1 169	1 315	1 110	1 279	1 384	1 246
	Number of sessions	15	20	19	20	17	17	19	17

	Name of body	1982	1983	1984	1985	1986	1987	1988	1989
15.	Advisory Board on	-	56	60	70	80	70	60	a/
	Disarmament Studies	-	-	70	60	80	78	80	57
16.	Disarmament Commission	29	61	37	51	57	52	45	58
17.	Committee for Programme and Co-ordination								
	(organizational sessions,	-	-	-	-	-	100	-	50
	twenty-second-twenty-ninth sessions,	86	79	79	88	85	93	84	84
	resumed sessions)	-	-	-	-	-	86	75	-
18.	Working Group on the Drafting of an International Convention on the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Their Families	75	67	61	75	-	85	78	78
19.	Committee on Contributions	69	61	60	74	73	72	71	78
20.	United Nations Board of Auditors	60	b/	33	b/	b/	100	50	b/
21.	Committee on Information,								
	organizational sessions	25	25	25	80	25	25	-	-
	substantive sessions	43	75	75	63	56	61	43	54
	resumed session	-	-	-	-	-	-	50	-
22.	International Civil Service Commission	-	-	-	-	-	80	-	-
	(New York sessions)	80	83	82	70	90	79	77	90
	Subtotal								
	Combined utilization factor	467	507	582	631	546	981	713	549
	Number of sessions	8	8	10	9	8	13	11	8
	Cumulative total								
	Combined utilization factor	1 338	1 700	1 751	1 946	1 656	2 260	2 097	1 795
	Number of sessions	23	28	29	29	25	30	30	25

	Name of body	1982	1983	1984	1985	1986	1987	1988	1989
23.	Commission on Human Rights (forty-first-forty-fifth sessions)	-	-	61	64	89	79	89	89
24.	Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (twenty-fourth-	62	77	67	73	73	87	-	-
	thirty-seventh sessions)	60	67	65	63	-	70	70	60
25.	Special Committee to Investigate Israeli Practices Affecting the Human Rights of	23	-	-	-	-	25	20	25
	the Population of the	56	33	33	39	50	40	25	25
	Occupied Territories c/	43	-	-	-	-	-	50	30
26.	International Law Commission (thirty-fourth-forty-first sessions)	68	71	75	75	88	98	97	97
27.	United Nations Joint Staff Pension Board	-	40	100	100	83	67	90	94
28.	Commission on Narcotic Drugs (thirtieth-thirty-third biennial sessions, seventh-tenth special sessions)	90	94	90	94	90	94	95	80
29.	Commission on the Status of Women (thirtieth-thirty-third biennial sessions, special sessions)	56	62	56	81	67	80	88	100
	Subtotal								
	Combined utilization factor	458	444	547	589	540	640	624	600
	Number of sessions	8	7	8	8	7	9	9	9
	Cumulative total								
	Combined utilization factor	1 796	2 144	2 298	2 535	2 196	2 900	2 721	2 395
	Number of sessions	31	35	37	37	32	39	39	34

	Name of body	1982	1983	1984	1985	1986	1987	1988	1989
30.	United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA)								
	Provident Fund	100	75	100	100	100	100	100	100
	Advisory Committee	-	-	100	-	100	100	100	100
31.	International Narcotics Control Board								
	(thirtieth-	75	78	90	90	100	100	89	94
	forty-fifth sessions)	82	89	82	93	95	95	93	95
32.	United Nations Scientific Committee on the Effects of Atomic Radiation (thirty-first-								
	thirty-eighth sessions)	73	80	72	86	70	77	100	45
33.	Committee for Crime Prevention and Control (seventh-tenth								
	biennial sessions)	56	-	81	-	75	-	81	-
34.	Advisory Commission of UNRWA	50	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
35.	Statistical Commission (twenty-second- twenty-fifth								
	biennial sessions)	-	81	-	81	-	94	-	94
	Subtotal								
	Combined utilization factor	436	503	625	550	640	666	663	628
	Number of sessions	6	6	7	6	7	7	7	7
	Cumulative total								
	Combined utilization factor	2 232	2 647	2 923	3 085	2 836	3 566	3 384	3 023
	Number of sessions	37	41	44	43	39	46	46	41

Name of body	1982	1983	1984	1985	1986	1987	1988	1989
36. Population Commission (twenty-second-twenty-fifth biennial sessions)	-	-	100 d/	75	-	69	-	88
37. Commission for Social Development (twenty-eighth-thirty-first biennial sessions)	-	75	-	69	-	50	-	81
38. Advisory Committee on Science and Technology for Development (first-eighth sessions)	62	75	67	75	69	e/	e/	e/
39. High-level Committee on the Review of Technical Co-operation among Developing Countries	-	67	-	82	-	84	-	67
Subtotal								
Combined utilization factor	62	217	167	301	69	203	-	236
Number of sessions	1	3	2	4	1	3	-	3
GRAND TOTAL								
Combined utilization factor	2 294	2 864	3 090	3 386	2 905	3 769	3 384	3 251
Number of sessions	38	44	46	47	40	49	46	44

a/ The Advisory Board met in a single consolidated session for the first time in 1989.

b/ The Board dispensed with conference services in 1983, 1985 and 1986, 1989 and for part of its 1984 session.

c/ By resolution 44/48 A, the Special Committee was renamed Special Committee to Investigate Israeli Practices Affecting the Human Rights of the Palestinian People and Other Arabs of the Occupied Territories.

d/ Instead of meeting as scheduled in 1983, the Population Commission met in 1984 as the preparatory body for the Population Conference.

e/ The Advisory Committee dispensed with conference services in 1987, 1988 and 1989.

Annex III

1. The table in annex II shows the utilization factors for a number of United Nations organs over the past eight years. Most of the organs shown are subsidiary bodies of the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council that have been meeting regularly since 1980 or 1981 in New York, Geneva or Vienna. Treaty bodies have been included, but bodies established on an ad hoc basis, such as preparatory committees, expert groups and other bodies meeting as required or otherwise not convening on a regular sessional basis have been omitted. Also omitted in the present report are bodies which were included in the list in previous years, but which have since ceased to function.

2. In addition to examining the utilization factors of individual bodies, it is possible to assess the performance of United Nations organs in general by calculating the overall and the average utilization factor in respect of a group of organs, as explained in paragraphs 7 and 8 of the present report. In the previous report (A/AC.172/88/Add.7), a calculation of the average utilization factor for the period 1981-1988 was as follows:

	1981	1982	1983	1984	1985	1986	1987	1988
Total utilization factor:	2 836	2 440	3 134	3 440	3 746	3 277	3 919	3 384
divided by								
Total number of sessions:	47	41	48	51	52	45	51	46
Average utilization factor:	60	60	65	67	72	73	77	74

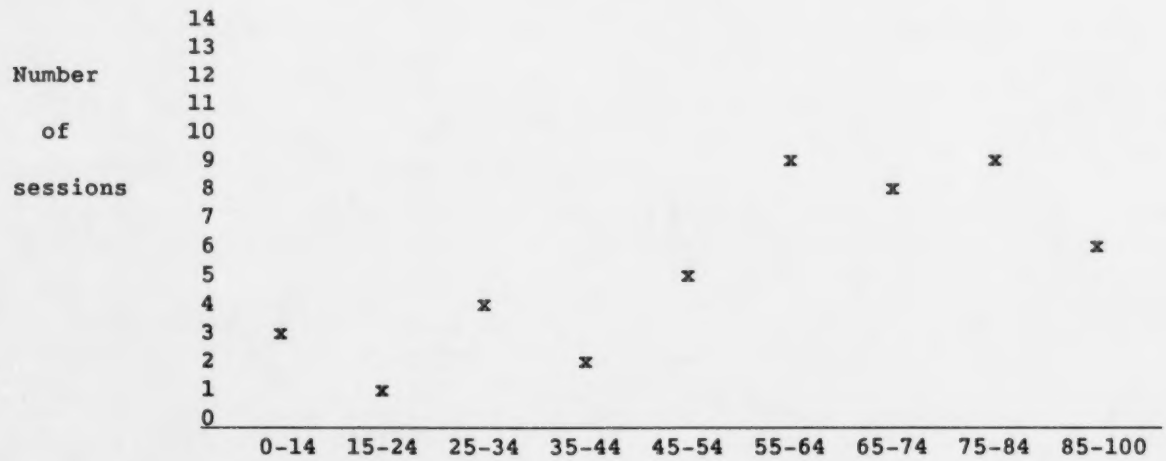
3. In 1989, the total number of sessions held by the bodies under review was 44 and the total utilization factor was 3,251. The average utilization factor for the bodies under review in 1989 was therefore 74 (3,238 divided by 44). The results produced by this second method appear to show a continued trend by which the bodies under review taken as a whole are generally tending to approach or exceed the 75 per cent utilization set by the Committee as a target in 1983. This, in 1989, apparently has occurred despite a slackening in Geneva (67 per cent in 1989, 82 per cent in 1988) and Vienna (85 per cent in 1989, 92 per cent in 1988), and marked improvements in the utilization pattern at New York (73 per cent in 1989, 68 per cent in 1988).

4. As in earlier documents in this series, utilization patterns can be depicted both in tabular form and graphically. The data on which the graphs are based can be summed up as follows (figures for 1981 and 1988, taken from annex II of document A/AC.172/88/Add.7, are provided for comparison purposes):

Utilization factor (percentage)	Number of sessions 1981	1988	1989
Between 0 and 14	3	0	0
15-24	1	1	0
25-34	4	1	3
35-44	2	1	1
45-54	5	7	5
55-64	9	4	4
65-74	8	4	4
75-84	9	15	11
85-100 per cent utilization	6	13	16
Total number of sessions	47	46	44

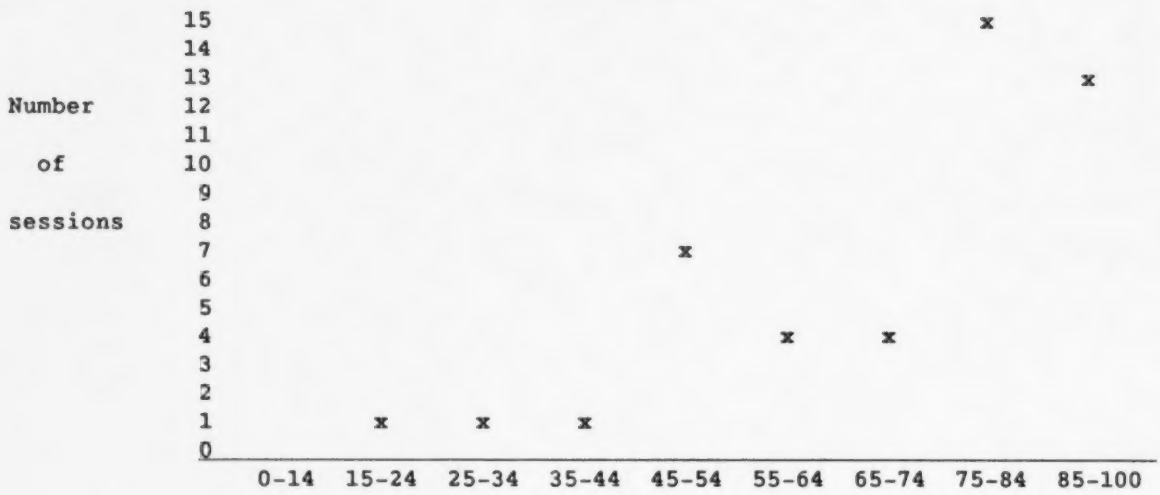
5. On the basis of the figures shown above, the utilization profiles for 1981, 1988 and 1989 are shown below:

1981

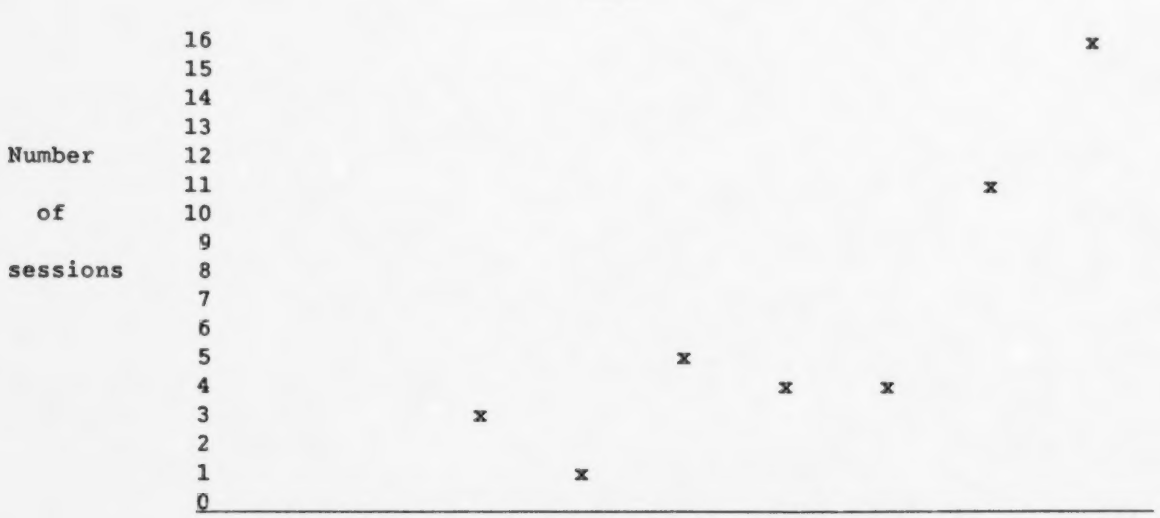


6. Thus, of the 47 sessions held in 1981 by the bodies under review, only 15, or 32 per cent, used the resources made available to them with 75 per cent efficiency or better. The number of sessions registering 55 to 74 per cent was 17, or 36 per cent of the whole, and the number of sessions registering 54 per cent utilization or less was 15 out of the 47, or 32 per cent.

7. The pattern for 1988 is shown below.



8. The pattern for 1989 is shown below.



9. In 1989 the number of bodies in the lowest ranges (0-44 per cent utilization) remained constant compared with 1988. The figures indicate a clustering around the middle range (45 to 74 per cent utilization) accompanied by an increase of the number of bodies in the very highest range (85-100 per cent utilization). Thus, 9 bodies (21 per cent of the sample) fall into the 0-54 per cent utilization category, 8 (18 per cent) in the 55-74 per cent range and 27, or 61 per cent, registered 75 per cent or better.

10. The figures given above can be summarized in the following form:

Percentage of conference resources utilized	Percentage of sessions held		
	1981	1988	1989
75-100	32	61	61
55-74	36	17	18
0-54	32	22	21
	100	100	100